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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

000007

DATE:

SUBJECT: POLREP #1

16 NOV 1989

Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Site, Rockford, Illinois
(Site I.D. #DK)

Delivery Order #7460-05-132

Contract #68-01-7460

Contractor P.E.I. Associates

SITUATION

On August 9, 1989, the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) as part of a 90-day study by the William Reilly, United States Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator, collected two private well water samples within the boundaries of the Southeast Rockford, National Priorities List (NPL) site in Rockford, Illinois. The analytical results of this sampling indicated that the water contained levels of two volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in excess of the Emergency Response Action Level. The levels of both cis and trans 1,2 -dichloroethene exceeded the Removal Action Levels of 175 parts per billion. The residents of these two homes were immediately offered bottled water as an alternative drinking source and an Action Memorandum for \$332,000 was produced subsequent to a verbal commitment of \$10,000 for initial site activities. This will cover the costs for bottled water deliveries, and point-of-use filter systems.

On October 4th through October 12, 1989, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Theisen attended seven public information meetings sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and involving the U.S. EPA, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the IEPA and the City of Rockford. Residents of individual neighborhoods within the boundaries of the NPL Superfund site were contacted and asked to attend the meetings. Residents were told of the U.S. EPA's plans to sample residential wells throughout the area in an attempt to locate the areas of risk.

On October 3rd through October 5, 1989, 78 residential well samples were collected and analyzed for the VOCs contained in the first two samples taken in August. The sample results, combined with recent results obtained by the IDPH, were used to characterize the extent of groundwater-contamination and place over 150 residences on bottled water. An additional 24 samples have been taken in recent weeks to further delineate the plume boundaries. Total residences to be placed on bottled water will total approximately 190.

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FUTURE ACTIONS

All residents currently placed on bottled water by the U.S. EPA will receive point of use drinking water filters in the near future; if it is anticipated that an alternative temporary drinking water source is required for longer than three months, as is the case here, point of use filters are more cost effective.

Given that the Office of Emergency Response in Washington, D.C. concurs with the decision of the EERB, Region V, water mains will be laid in contaminated areas and affected residences and/or those threatened will be connected to the municipal system. A request for additional monies to cover this activity will be forth coming in the form of a Ceiling Increase to the original Action Memorandum.